

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JANUARY 12, 1891.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. HAWLEY, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. Res. 240.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the resolution (H. Res. 240) to authorize the Secretary of War to issue ordnance and ordnance stores to the Washington High School, have had the same under consideration, and submit the following favorable report:

The Washington High School must look only to the national Government for such care and assistance as would be given in the States by the State authorities. The authority granted in this resolution is in accordance with precedents. The battalion of cadets has distinguished itself by efficiency in drill, and the supply of ordnance provided for in this resolution would be of much aid to it. The battalion has been receiving an amount of military instruction which will be valuable in any event in the future lives of these boys, and especially so in case they should be called into active service. We append two letters from the Secretary of War, and recommend that the resolution pass.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, D. C., December 13, 1890.

SIR: Referring to House Resolution No. 240, Fifty-first Congress, second session, to authorize the Secretary of War to issue ordnance and ordnance stores to the Washington High School, which was reported favorably by the Committee on Military Affairs of the House of Representatives, and is now on the House Calendar, I have the honor to inclose, at the request of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, a copy of my letter, dated November 25 last, to the chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs of the House of Representatives inclosing, with a recommendation for favorable consideration, the draft of a resolution authorizing the issue of ordnance and ordnance stores to the Washington High School.

The Commissioners are quite anxious to have early action by Congress on the pending resolution, and have asked that the inclosed letter be sent to you with the hope that it would tend to expedite the matter.

Very respectfully,

REDFIELD PROCTOR,
Secretary of War.

Hon. J. R. HAWLEY,
Chairman Committee on Military Affairs, United States Senate.

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WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, D. C., November 25, 1890.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith for the consideration of your committee a draft of a joint resolution authorizing the issue of ordnance and ordnance stores to the High School, of Washington, D. C.

This institution has for several years had a most excellent battalion of young men, and I have recently received an application from the Commissioners of the District of Columbia asking for the loan of one hundred sets of arms and equipments on the giving of a proper bond, in order that ninety high school boys now actually belonging to the battalion, and who are without guns, may be properly equipped. I am informed that the average age of the officers of the battalion is eighteen years, and of the privates seventeen years, and that more than half of the boys actually possess or have ordered uniforms, and that all will be uniformed before the end of December.

As there is no authority of law for me to issue the arms in question, I have thought it better not to follow the precedent which the records of the Department show was set in 1885 by issuing arms without authority of law, but rather to submit this joint resolution for the consideration of your committee, and with recommendation that it do pass.

Very respectfully,

REDFIELD PROCTOR,
Secretary of War.

Hon. B. M. CUTCHEON,
*Chairman of Committee on Military Affairs,
House of Representatives.*